

# Former Head of Capital Police Fighting Unseen and Unknown Foes

## MAJOR SYLVESTER FACES BIG ODDS

### Guarding du Pont Munitions Factories From Destruction by Plotters and Cranks.

(Continued from Page 1.)

question why police systems, vast and costly, are now maintained by makers of powder, shells, cartridges, gun and high explosives which Europe is buying at the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars.

The purveyors of war supplies are the busiest agencies in the United States today. There are stories of millionaires made almost overnight of factories that have virtually thrown away their doors and are open twenty-four hours a day for seven days a week. Forces have been doubled and tripled in steel, powder and gun manufacturing, and wages are higher than they have ever been in the industry.

### Boom Towns Sprung Up Here and There in State

Boom towns have sprung up here and there as at Hopewell, Va., where the du Ponts have made a city out of a cornfield within a year. Old factory sites, trod a few months ago by only a few hundred half-breed workmen, swarm with thousands of employees today. Shipyard after shipyard of munitions and the paraphernalia of war cross and recross the ocean to the battlefields of the continent in arms.

The story of the "war munitions boom" is not new either in this country or with the nations that are buying war supplies. It is a story of the past, of the future, and of the present. But the narrative of what is being done to protect the property, these munitions concerns, and the hundreds of thousands of men employed by them, is yet to be appreciated by those who have read of booming stocks and growing millionaires, towns of mushroom growth and property returned to a blazing industry.

### Explosions Cause Increase In Number of the Guards

Below is printed a resume of the more notable explosions and fires in munitions plants within the past few months. More than half a hundred American workmen have sacrificed their lives and the property loss has been great—and this despite the ever increasing vigilance of guards and the gradual increase in the number of sentinels. The precautions taken at the du Pont establishments are indicative of those to be found wherever large war orders are being filled today. At the du Pont company has at the head of its detective and guard forces a man who was for more than a quarter of a century connected with the police department of Washington, and who for many years has been president of the International Association of Police Chiefs.

### Vigilance Is Watchword All Over the Land

What Major Sylvester is doing at Wilmington, Carney's Point and other factories of the du Pont Company, trained men are doing for the makers of war munitions all over this land. Vigilance is the watchword. A stranger might as well attempt to enter Buckingham Palace unannounced as to go through the gates of the du Pont powder factories and there are many of them. Every one is regarded with suspicion, and naturally so. There is no war in this country, but the visitor who would enter an establishment where war orders will be submitted to all the unpleasant scrutiny he might expect were he to attempt to possess upon himself headquarters in London, Berlin, or Prague.

### Even Office Boys Now Are Real Investigators

If one has business to transact with the company, its offices may be found in the city of Wilmington. Here, too, there are alert, silent men about the counter-shafts, the hallways, and the restrooms. Even the men who are subway investigators, a name given to men who are sent to investigate suspicious persons who enter a factory, are not exempted from the scrutiny of the du Pont officials.

Although the du Pont officials and employees occupy many offices in the big du Pont building at Wilmington, the work is not done in the city. The du Ponts have a private business and outsiders are not desired. Few persons can get a pass to enter a munitions plant now.

### Guarded Like Penal Institutions Everywhere

The powder factories are surrounded by high board fences. Patented guards stand within and without, and there are observation towers and a home in the sky, with a man to keep watch for a flying machine. All about the plant

are big electric light stands, and these are flashed at frequent intervals during the night to make certain that no undesirable character lurks about the establishment.

The guards are well armed and numerous. They work in eight-hour shifts, and report with regularity to commanding officers. Each plant in the du Pont organization has its chief officer, who in turn makes report to Major Sylvester, who is the director general of the entire force of about 600 men.

Major Sylvester's attention is divided among the many establishments, large and small. He is not only in the city of Wilmington, but he is also at Carney's Point; then he may jump to Hopewell, Haskill, N. J., or Gibbstown, N. J.

### Applicants For Jobs Are Investigated Thoroughly

These secret service men are likely to be called upon to investigate the story of an applicant for a job—for no one gets a job these days with a munitions plant unless he can give a full account of himself. Again, the company detective may be assigned to trail a person who seems to be interested in the powder company's affairs and its establishments. It cannot be officially admitted, but it is a fact that the company is run down rumors of bomb plots, warnings to employees to quit their jobs, and fears of incendiary bombs.

No official investigation is made, but it is a fact that the du Pont company has been found that an explosion or fire at the du Pont works has been the result of a "common sense" analysis. Nevertheless, there is in operation a highly developed police system, not only at the du Pont works but at munitions plants everywhere.

### Unable to Trace Fires To Outside Origin

After the explosion which cost thirty lives last week, the du Pont Company issued an official statement denying that proof had been found of a plot. "Shrouded in mystery as have been many previous explosions along the Brandywine and elsewhere throughout the country," was the description given of the explosion, "the cause of the explosion is not yet known." It was noted that it had confirmed reports that warnings had been posted along the Brandywine advising all employees of the danger of fire.

Charles B. Landis, former member of Congress, and now one of the counsel for the du Pont Company, has been investigating the explosion and has failed to disclose any plot by German or Austrian agents. "We have not been able," he said, "to trace any of the explosions or fires which have occurred to outside sources."

### Protection of Plants Costing \$5,000,000 a Year Now

No attempt is made by du Pont officials to deny that that company, in common with other makers of war supplies, maintains a heavy and expensive guard about its establishments. Judge Landis would not say that this guard is due to fear of bomb outrages and incendiarism, but he suggested that it was a matter of "common sense" for the company to protect its property and workmen under all the circumstances.

"We are taking such precautions as common sense would dictate," said Judge Landis. "The plant is surrounded by high walls, and the police service, which is maintained by the company, is also true that men seeking employment are closely questioned about themselves and undergo a rigid examination as to their qualifications, former employment, life history, and similar matters. There are all common sense precautions. It is not necessary to say more."

### Between 6,000 and 7,000 Guards Always Employed

"These officers, here and at other plants, are paid good money. We have among the lot former railroad men, police officers, street car men—even former doctors and lawyers. They are paid in all vocations as now doing police duty in the munitions industry. It is unnecessary to say that close scrutiny is kept upon visitors to munitions plants. That is natural. It is a private business and outsiders are not desired. Few persons can get a pass to enter a munitions plant now."

### Sylvester Constantly On the Jump

Major Sylvester has a man's size job and is constantly on the jump. He says he likes the outdoor work and his physical appearance indicates an invigorous man in health since he left the city of Washington.

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thirty-two years spent in an office it does one good to get out of doors.

It is Major Sylvester's experience that the discipline existing in these private police forces is just as strict as one finds in a municipal organization. The mysterious methods of the secret service, the astuteness of the country's great detective agencies, the under surface methods of communication and detection, and the smooth-working methods of a capable and well-balanced police force of any big city, are all embodied in the police systems of the munitions industry.

The guarded factories of the du Pont company, which is said to be filling orders for many millions of dollars worth of powder, gunpowder, and high explosives, are scattered throughout the East. No branch of the establishment—even though it be a small distributing station—is left without protection. No risk is run that spies within or without the establishment shall do damage.

### Munitions Plants Are Taking No Chances

It is not expected that any one of the du Pont organization—or of any organization shipping arms and ammunition to Europe—should admit that these extraordinary police precautions are being taken because of definite knowledge of plots against the munitions makers. Nevertheless, there are records of the Dumba incident, the increasing number of unexplained disasters in powder, cartridge, and steel mills, the passing of the plant of dynamite aboard ammunition ships, and a general feeling of uncertainty as to what to expect.

Under such circumstances the munitions plants are taking no chances. Whether Judge Landis saw fit to imply that any German or Austrian might apply should be regarded with suspicion. Yet, he said, the complexity of the situation, without referring specifically to any class of suspected enemies, is the effort of Ambassador Dumba, now recalled at the demand of this Government, to force Austrian sympathizers to strike in the steel and munitions mills.

At Hopewell, Va., where the du Ponts have built a city of 25,000 souls within a few months, the munitions industry is predominant among the gunpowder.

The seas, however, are in control of the allied fleets. The central powers can expect to interfere, but little with the actual transportation of war materials, once they are manufactured and put aboard ships.

### Will Be Delivered Unless Stopped at Source

Unless these vast quantities of guns, shells, cartridges, powder and high explosives are stopped "at the source," the delivery to the allies is practically assured.

It is doubtless true that the munitions makers have reasoned this out from the "common sense" standpoint and they are, to say the least, concerned over the mysterious fires and explosions which occur every few days where war orders are being filled. Even without proof of an anti-munitions plot, the loss of each month for the protection of such establishments are increasing and they have been increasing all summer.

With each additional explosion of mysterious origin, these bills will go higher and higher until \$5,000,000 per year will be no more than the aggregate expense of police force. It is impossible to estimate what sums have been spent by Federal and State authorities in contracting in the investigation of the du Pont explosion, the planting of bombs, the starting of incendiary fires and the suspected interference with the du Pont Company.

### List of More Notable Fires and Explosions

Here is a list of the more notable fires and explosions occurring during the past few months in munitions plants:

April 1—Explosion in the Fenitelle powder factory at Alton, Ill. Five killed.

May 12—Explosion in the Anderson gunpowder warehouse at Wallington, N. J. Three killed.

May 15—Six injured by explosion in the du Pont mill at Carney's Point.

January 1—Fire loss of \$15,000 in the Buckthorn plant of John A. Roebling's Sons.

March 6—Six killed in powder plant operated by John A. Roebling's Sons at Carney's Point.

August 18—Small explosion in a Westinghouse plant of the du Pont Company.

August 26—Explosion in gun plant killed two.

October 6—Four killed in explosion at Aetna powder factory at Emmonsum, Pa.

October 26—Fire loss of \$20,000 in Russell's munitions warehouse at Seattle, Wash.

November 16—Fire loss of \$200,000 at the Bethlehem Steel Company's plant at Edgewater, Pa.

November 18—A million dollars' loss at the Roebling steel plant, Trenton, N. J.

November 22—Fire loss of \$200,000 at Stoughton's gunpowder works at Aetna Powder Company.

November 29—Three killed in explosion at Wilmington mills of the du Pont Company.

### Germans and Austrians Have Little Chance

A du Pont official reassuringly asserted that the quantities per thousand pounds of powder made are fewer now than heretofore, that commensurate loss of life has not kept pace with increased output.

In this connection, however, it should be remembered that the powder mills are now working twenty-four hours a day; that their forces 20 per cent since the influx of war orders, and that accidents in normal times were known to be such, while there is grave uncertainty today regarding the cause of disasters that follow one after the other despite precautions which are unprecedented in the industry.

Irrespective of the lack of proof of bomb and incendiary plots fostered by the sympathizers with some of the nations at war, it is true that the munitions establishments filling war orders for the allies do not care to take the risk of employing men antagonistic to the allied purchasers.

Workers of German and Austrian nationality have little chance of getting employment at the du Pont works, or at similar establishments. An applicant for work undergoes virtually a "third degree," as to himself. Not only are cranks and spies feared by the makers of munitions, but it is not regarded even as business policy to employ one of a nation opposing the nation for whom war supplies are being made.

In selecting differentials it is exercised to see that there is no opportunity to transfer the war of nations to the industry of an American factory manufacturer.

### Hopewell at First a Goldfield of 1915

"Can a German or Austrian obtain employment in your mills?" an attaché of the du Pont company was asked.

He smiled, and replied:

"The question answers itself, doesn't it? Suppose you were making something for a country at war. Would you consider the subject of an enemy country the best employee to be obtained?"

The attaché said he did not mean to imply that any German or Austrian might apply should be regarded with suspicion. Yet, he said, the complexity of the situation, without referring specifically to any class of suspected enemies, is the effort of Ambassador Dumba, now recalled at the demand of this Government, to force Austrian sympathizers to strike in the steel and munitions mills.

makers. Hopewell is a story within itself. It has the ramshackle appearance of a gold boom town of the old West; lots that sold at less than \$100 an acre a year ago now bring \$10,000 to \$15,000; wooden stores and homes are built almost in a day, and there is money money everywhere.

The town is so new that there is not a city government. The legislature is yet to meet and charter a place that owes its existence to war orders, and which would have remained a corn field if it had not been for the du Ponts.

### Close to 75,000 Men on du Pont's Pay Roll

About 25,000 men are employed at the Hopewell mills. The du Pont company has another large plant, employing about 18,000 men, at Carney's Point. On the pay roll of the du Ponts it is probable today there are close to 75,000 men.

The great majority of these are making gunpowder, gunpowder, and other explosives for the allies. Smokeless powder is manufactured at Carney's Point, Parlin, and Haskill, N. J. High explosives are made at Gibbstown, N. J. Black powder is manufactured at Wilmington and gunpowder is shipped by the railroad from Hopewell, the magic city about nine miles out of Petersburg.

Regardless of where the plants are located, and regardless of the sort of war munitions they may make, they are surrounded by picked guards and protected by a manna of the du Pont system, relentless and alert as that of the United States Government.

Whether or not these establishments are guarded against the more curiosity seeker, or whether there lurks in the heart of every munitions maker the fear of spies, bomb planters, and incendiaries, may be left to the common sense of the investigator and the reader.

Compare on one hand the footings, in millions of dollars, of the war orders and the munitions that shake some plant and city every few days. On the

### Eighteen-Year-Old Girl Is Held in Robbery Case

May Mansfield, eighteen years old, who lives at 218 K street northwest, is held by the police of the Third precinct in connection with a hold-up Friday night in which John Siskel, a local merchant, was robbed of \$154.14 street northwest, was stopped by a man and a woman.

Siskel told the police that he was held up near his home at the point of a pistol. He said that \$154.14 was taken from his pockets. A car belonging to the local police and a man named Siskel were arrested.

### Congressman Eagle Turns Down Patronage

There is one lone Democrat in the House who turns his shoulder on patronage. He is J. H. Eagle, of Texas, who, according to a report to the Democratic caucus yesterday, was the only Democrat to refuse the \$1,000 patronage. He was entitled to it in the last session of Congress. While his associates clamored for jobs, Eagle personally told the patronage committee he wanted none for himself.

The House patronage committee, named by the caucus will divide minor jobs such as messengers, elevator operators, etc., carrying in aggregate salaries amounting to nearly \$500,000. Each Congressman, except committee chairmen, will receive \$1,000 in patronage.

### Wood Would Save Pay For U. S. Employees

The War Department is giving consideration to a report from Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood, commanding the Department of the East, urging that special consideration be given to employees of the Government who are attending military camps of instruction, so that they may be saved from loss of pay.

Additional leave with pay is granted to Government employees attending camps of the District military.

General Wood believes the same regulations should apply to employees attending such camps as that at Plattsburg. "It is unfortunate," he says, "if employees of the Government are not allowed to attend without undergoing loss of pay in addition to the very considerable personal outlay."

### The Best Christmas Gifts Are Here

The largest stock, the finest assortments—absolutely reliable goods, and the easiest terms offered by any reputable house in the city. With every payment in our store or to our collectors we give you Profit-Sharing Certificates worth 5 per cent of the amount of such payment. You can use them to purchase any article in our store.

<p><b>\$150</b> \$3 a Week.</p> <p><b>\$100</b> \$2 a Week.</p> <p><b>\$125</b> \$2.50 a Week.</p> <p><b>\$140</b> \$3 a Week.</p> <p><b>\$80</b> \$2 a Week.</p> <p><b>\$150</b> \$3 a Week.</p> <p><b>\$200</b> \$4 a Week.</p>	<p><b>\$10</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$15</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$20</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$25</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$30</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$35</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$40</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$45</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$50</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$55</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$60</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$65</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$70</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$75</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$80</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$85</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$90</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$95</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$100</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$105</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$110</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$115</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$120</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$125</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$130</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$135</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$140</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$145</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$150</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$155</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$160</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$165</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$170</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$175</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$180</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$185</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$190</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$195</b> 50c a Week.</p> <p><b>\$200</b> 50c a Week.</p>
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other hand set down six or seven thousand men who are now doing guard and detective duty to protect American life and American industry—and there will come understanding of why Major Sylvester today heads one branch of this nation-wide private police system and has a job bigger than he had here.

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